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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ROBERS COSTILLA MATTO, DANIEL PAISIG VALENCIA, WILBERT COSTILLA MATTO, and ALDO VALENZUELA HILAR, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

COLLECTIVE ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

-against-

OUREM IRON WORKS, INC., and ARTHUR VIEIRA, as an individual.

Defendants.	
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1. Plaintiffs, ROBERS COSTILLA MATTO, DANIEL PAISIG VALENCIA, WILBERT COSTILLA MATTO, and ALDO VALENZUELA HILAR, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiffs"), by their attorneys at Helen F. Dalton & Associates, P.C., allege, upon personal knowledge as to themselves and upon information and belief as to other matters, as follows:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

2. Plaintiffs, ROBERS COSTILLA MATTO, DANIEL PAISIG VALENCIA, WILBERT COSTILLA MATTO, and ALDO VALENZUELA HILAR, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, through undersigned counsel, brings this action against OUREM IRON WORKS, INC., and ARTHUR VIEIRA, as an individual, (hereinafter referred to as "Defendants"), to recover damages for egregious violations of state and federal wage and hour laws arising out of Plaintiffs' employment at OUREM IRON WORKS, INC., located at 498 e Nepperhan Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10701.

3. As a result of the violations of Federal and New York State labor laws delineated below, Plaintiffs seek compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiffs also seek interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' federal claims pursuant to the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §216 and 28 U.S.C. §1331.
- 5. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1367.
- 6. Venue is proper in the SOUTHERN District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district.
- 7. This Court is empowered to issue a declaratory judgment pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§2201 & 2202.

THE PARTIES

- 8. Plaintiff ROBERS COSTILLA MATTO residing at 17 Dobbs Ferry Road, White Plains, New York 10607, was employed from in or around September 2008 until in or around November 2015 by Defendants at OUREM IRON WORKS, INC.
- Plaintiff DANIEL PAISIG VALENCIA residing at 10 Florence Avenue, White Plains, New York 10607, was employed from in or around May 2010 until in or around April 2017 by Defendants at OUREM IRON WORKS, INC.
- 10. Plaintiff WILBERT COSTILLA MATTO residing at 22 Dekalb Avenue, White Plains, New York 10605, was employed from in or around September 2001 until in or around March 2016 by Defendants at OUREM IRON WORKS, INC.
- 11. Plaintiff ALDO VALENZUELA HILAR residing at 657 Palcid Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10703, was employed from in or around May 2000 until in or around February 2016 by Defendants at OUREM IRON WORKS, INC.
- 12. Defendant, OUREM IRON WORKS, INC. is a corporation organized under the laws of New York.

- 13. Defendant, OUREM IRON WORKS, INC. is a corporation authorized to do business under the laws of New York.
- 14. Upon information and belief, Defendant, OUREM IRON WORKS, INC. is a corporation organized under the laws of New York with a principal executive office at 498 E Nepperhan Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10701.
- 15. Upon information and belief, Defendant ARTHUR VIEIRA owns and/or operates OUREM IRON WORKS, INC.,
- 16. Upon information and belief, Defendant ARTHUR VIEIRA is the Chief Executive Officer of OUREM IRON WORKS, INC.,
- 17. Upon information and belief, Defendant ARTHUR VIEIRA is an agent of OUREM IRON WORKS, INC.,
- 18. Upon information and belief, Defendant ARTHUR VIEIRA has power over personnel decisions at OUREM IRON WORKS, INC.,
- 19. Upon information and belief, Defendant ARTHUR VIEIRA has power over payroll decisions at OUREM IRON WORKS, INC.,
- 20. Defendant ARTHUR VIEIRA has the power to hire and fire employees at OUREM IRON WORKS, INC., establish and pay their wages, set their work schedule, and maintains their employment records.
- 21. During all relevant times herein, Defendant ARTHUR VIEIRA was Plaintiffs' employer within the meaning of the FLSA and NYLL.
- 22. On information and belief, OUREM IRON WORKS, INC. is, at present and has been at all times relevant to the allegation in the complaint, an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce within the meaning of the FLSA in that the entity (i) has had employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, and handle, sell or otherwise work on goods or material that have been moved in or produced for commerce by any person: and (ii) has had an annual gross volume of sales of not less than \$500,000.00.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 23. Plaintiff ROBERS COSTILLA MATTO was employed from in or around September 2008 until in or around November 2015 by Defendants at OUREM IRON WORKS, INC.
- 24. During Plaintiff ROBERS COSTILLA MATTO's employment by Defendants, Plaintiff's primary duties were as an iron worker and installer while performing other miscellaneous duties from in or around March 2014 until in or around November 2015.
- 25. Plaintiff ROBERS COSTILLA MATTO was paid by Defendants approximately \$19.00 per hour from in or around March 2014 until in or around December 2014, and approximately \$20.00 per hour from in or around January 2015 until in or around November 2015.
- 26. Plaintiff worked approximately seventy-two (72) hours or more per week during his employment by Defendants from in or around March 2014 until in or around November 2015.
- 27. Although Plaintiff ROBERS COSTILLA MATTO worked approximately seventy-two (72) hours or more per week during his employment by Defendants from in or around March 2014 until in or around November 2015, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff time and a half (1.5) for hours worked over forty (40), a blatant violation of the overtime provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
- 28. Plaintiff DANIEL PAISIG VALENCIA was employed from in or around May 2010 until in or around April 2017 by Defendants at OUREM IRON WORKS, INC.
- 29. During Plaintiff DANIEL PAISIG VALENCIA's employment by Defendants, Plaintiff's primary duties were as a painter and installer while performing other miscellaneous duties from in or around March 2014 until in or around April 2017.
- 30. Plaintiff DANIEL PAISIG VALENCIA was paid by Defendants approximately \$13.50 per hour from in or around March 2014 until in or around December 2014, approximately \$14.50 per hour from in or around January 2015 until in or around November 2016, and approximately \$17.00 per hour from in or around January 2017 until in or around April 2017.

- 31. Plaintiff worked approximately seventy-two (72) hours or more per week during his employment by Defendants from in or around March 2014 until in or around April 2017.
- 32. Although Plaintiff DANIEL PAISIG VALENCIA worked approximately seventy-two (72) hours or more per week during his employment by Defendants from in or around March 2014 until in or around November 2015, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff time and a half (1.5) for hours worked over forty (40), a blatant violation of the overtime provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
- 33. Plaintiff WILBERT COSTILLA MATTA was employed from in or around September 2001 until in or around March 2016 by Defendants at OUREM IRON WORKS, INC.
- 34. During Plaintiff WILBERT COSTILLA MATTA's employment by Defendants, Plaintiff's primary duties were as an installer while performing other miscellaneous duties from in or around March 2014 until in or around March 2016.
- 35. Plaintiff WILBERT COSTILLA MATTA was paid by Defendants approximately \$19.00 per hour from in or around March 2014 until in or around December 2014, and approximately \$20.00 per hour from in or around January 2015 until in or around March 2016.
- 36. Plaintiff worked approximately seventy-two (72) hours or more per week during his employment by Defendants from in or around March 2014 until in or around April 2017.
- 37. Although Plaintiff WILBERT COSTILLA MATTA worked approximately seventy-two (72) hours or more per week during his employment by Defendants from in or around March 2014 until in or around November 2015, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff time and a half (1.5) for hours worked over forty (40), a blatant violation of the overtime provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
- 38. Plaintiff ALDO VALENZUELA HILAR was employed from in or around May 2000 until in or around February 2016 by Defendants at OUREM IRON WORKS, INC.
- 39. During Plaintiff ALDO VALENZUELA HILAR'S employment by Defendants, Plaintiff's primary duties were as an iron worker and installer, while performing other miscellaneous duties from in or around March 2014 until in or around February 2016.

- 40. Plaintiff ALDO VALENZUELA HILAR was paid by Defendants approximately \$20.00 per hour from in or around March 2014 until in or around December 2014, and approximately \$22.00 per hour from in or around January 2015 until in or around February 2016.
- 41. Plaintiff ALDO VALENZUELA HILAR worked approximately seventy-two (72) hours or more per week during his employment by Defendants from in or around March 2014 until in or around February 2016.
- 42. Although Plaintiff ALDO VALENZUELA HILAR worked approximately seventy-two (72) hours or more per week during his employment by Defendants from in or around March 2014 until in or around February 2016, Defendants did not pay Plaintiff time and a half (1.5) for hours worked over forty (40), a blatant violation of the overtime provisions contained in the FLSA and NYLL.
- 43. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to post notices of the minimum wage and overtime wage requirements in a conspicuous place at the location of their employment as required by both the NYLL and the FLSA.
- 44. Upon information and belief, Defendants willfully failed to keep payroll records as required by both NYLL and the FLSA.
- 45. As a result of these violations of Federal and New York State labor laws, Plaintiffs seek compensatory damages and liquidated damages in an amount exceeding \$100,000.00. Plaintiffs also seek interest, attorneys' fees, costs, and all other legal and equitable remedies this Court deems appropriate.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

- 46. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and other employees similarly situated as authorized under the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b). The employees similarly situated are the collective class.
- 47. Collective Class: All persons who are or have been employed by the Defendants as iron workers, painters, ad installers, or other similarly titled personnel with substantially similar job requirements and pay provisions, who were performing the same sort of functions for Defendants, other than the executive and management positions, who have been subject to Defendants' common practices, policies,

- programs, procedures, protocols and plans including willfully failing and refusing to pay required overtime wage compensation.
- 48. Upon information and belief, Defendants employed between 50 and 100 employees within the past three years subjected to similar payment structures.
- 49. Upon information and belief, Defendants suffered and permitted Plaintiffs and the Collective Class to work more than forty hours per week without appropriate overtime compensation.
- 50. Defendants' unlawful conduct has been widespread, repeated, and consistent.
- 51. Upon information and belief, Defendant had knowledge that Plaintiffs and the Collective Class performed work requiring overtime pay.
- 52. Defendants' conduct as set forth in this Complaint, was willful and in bad faith, and has caused significant damages to Plaintiff and the Collective Class.
- 53. Defendants are liable under the FLSA for failing to properly compensate Plaintiff and the Collective Class, and as such, notice should be sent to the Collective Class. There are numerous similarly situated current and former employees of Defendants who have been denied overtime pay in violation of the FLSA and NYLL, who would benefit from the issuance of a Court-supervised notice of the present lawsuit, and the opportunity to join the present lawsuit. Those similarly situated employees are known to Defendants and are readily identifiable through Defendants' records.
- 54. The questions of law and fact common to the putative class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members.
- 55. The claims of Plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the putative class.
- 56. Plaintiffs and their counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the putative class.
- 57. A collective action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Overtime Wages Under The Fair Labor Standards Act

- 58. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 59. Plaintiffs have consented in writing to be a party to this action, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).
- 60. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiffs were engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
- 61. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants were employers engaged in commerce or the production of goods for commerce within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §§206(a) and 207(a).
- 62. Defendants willfully failed to pay Plaintiffs overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the regular wage, to which Plaintiffs were entitled under 29 U.S.C. §\$206(a) in violation of 29 U.S.C. §207(a)(1).
- 63. Defendants' violations of the FLSA as described in this Complaint have been willful and intentional. Defendants have not made a good effort to comply with the FLSA with respect to the compensation of the Plaintiffs.
- 64. Due to Defendants' FLSA violations, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, their unpaid wages and an equal amount in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys fees and costs of the action, including interest, pursuant to the FLSA, specifically 29 U.S.C. §216(b).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Overtime Wages Under New York Labor Law

- 65. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 66. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiffs were employed by Defendants within the meaning of New York Labor Law §§2 and 651.
- 67. Defendants failed to pay Plaintiffs overtime wages for hours worked in excess of forty hours per week at a wage rate of one and a half (1.5) times the regular wage to

- which Plaintiffs were entitled under New York Labor Law §652, in violation of 12 N.Y.C.R.R. 137-1.3.
- 68. Due to Defendants' New York Labor Law violations, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, their unpaid overtime wages and an amount equal to their unpaid overtime wages in the form of liquidated damages, as well as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of the action, including interest in accordance with NY Labor Law §198(1-a).

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Notice and Recordkeeping Requirements of the New York Labor Law

- 69. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 70. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs with a written notice, in English and in Spanish (Plaintiffs' primary language), of their rate of pay, regular pay day, and such other information as required by NYLL §195(1).
- 71. Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs in the amount of \$5,000.00 per Plaintiff, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Wage Statement Requirements of the New York Labor Law

- 72. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all allegations in all preceding paragraphs.
- 73. Defendants failed to provide Plaintiffs with wage statements upon each payment of wages, as required by NYLL §195(3)
- 74. Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs in the amount of \$5,000.00 per Plaintiff, together with costs and attorneys' fees.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully request that judgment be granted:

a. Declaring Defendants' conduct complained herein to be in violation of the Plaintiffs' rights under the FLSA, the New York Labor Law, and its regulations;

- b. Awarding Plaintiffs unpaid overtime wages;
- c. Awarding Plaintiffs liquidated damages pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216 and New York Labor Law §§198(1-a), 663(1);
- d. Awarding Plaintiffs prejudgment and post-judgment interest;
- e. Awarding Plaintiffs the costs of this action together with reasonable attorneys' fees; and
- f. Awarding such and further relief as this court deems necessary and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all questions of fact raised by the complaint.

Dated: This **2nd**day of March 2020.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ROBERS COSTILLA MATTO, DANIEL PAISIG VALENCIA, WILBERT COSTILLA MATTO, and ALDO VALENZUELA HILAR, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

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OUREM IRON WORKS, INC., and ARTHUR VIEIRA, as an individual,

Defendants.

SUMMONS & COMPLAINT

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TO:

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